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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

FROM the indulgence you have ſo often ſhewn to the productions of female correſpondents, I am encouraged to hope that you will not refuſe this epiſtle a place in your paper.

You muſt know, ſir, that with a tolerable perſon, a very good fortune, and lovers in abundance, I have a particular humour to live and die a maid. This way of thinking, I proteſt, does not ariſe from diſappointed love, but on the contrary, from my never having ſeen any one man who has been poſſeſſed of thoſe accompliſhments which I think neceſſary for a huſband.

You

You will imagine, perhaps, that I hardly know myſelf what ſort of a man I would have; but to convince you of the contrary, I am going to give you a deſcription of one, whom, notwithſtanding my preſent humour, I would willingly marry, and reward with a fortune of ten thouſand pounds. Such a declaration as this, while there are ſo many fortune-hunters, witty ſparks, pretty fellows, and grave widowers about town, will undoubtedly ſtrike ſome hundreds with a flattering hope that I am eaſily to be carried off: but to ſilence their pretenſions all at once, here follows the deſcription of the only man in the world that I will conſent to marry; and whom I ſhall beg leave to entitle

THE MAID's HUSBAND.

NOTWITHSTANDING it is a fatal maxim among women, "To pleaſe the eye, though they torture the "heart," yet I am ſo far an advocate for pleaſing the eye, that the man I have an idea of, muſt have a perſon graceful and engaging. The features of his face muſt be regular; and though regular, agreeable; which as yet I hardly remember to have ſeen, having generally obſerved that where nature is moſt exact, ſhe is leaſt engaging. His eyes muſt be lively, ſparkling, and affecting; and over the whole face there muſt be a clear complexion, health, chearfulneſs and ſenſibility. His ſtature muſt be enclining to the tall; his motion eaſy and genteel; free from the ſhort pert trip of the affected beau, or the haughty tragic ſtep of the more ſolemn fop. His behaviour ſerious, but natural; neither too open, nor too reſerved. His look, his laugh, his ſpeech, and his whole manner, muſt be juſt without affectation, and free without levity.

THUS

THUS much for his perſon. I come now to the endowments of his mind; without which, grace, beauty, and agreeableneſs will avail him nothing. His genius muſt be fanciful; his knowledge extenſive. Men, as well as books, muſt have been his ſtudy. Learning, freedom, and gallantry muſt be ſo blended in him, as to make him always the improving friend, the gay companion, and the entertaining lover. In converſation he muſt ſay nothing with ſtudy, nor yet any thing at random. His thoughts muſt flow from him naturally, yet not without that delicacy of expreſſion, which is neceſſary to give them a genteel turn. To the talents of his mind let me add (if I may be allowed the diſtinction) the qualities of his ſoul. He muſt be generous without prodigality; humane without weakneſs; juſt without ſeverity; and fond without folly. To his wife he muſt be endearing; to his children affectionate; to his friends warm; and to mankind benevolent. Nature and reaſon muſt join their powers, and to the openneſs of the heart add the virtue of œconomy; making him careful without avarice, and giving him a kind of unconcernedneſs without negligence. With love he muſt have reſpect; and by a continued complaiſance always win upon the inclination. He muſt take care to retain his conqueſt by the means he gained it, and eternally look and ſpeak with the ſame deſires and affections, though with greater freedom.

IT has been obſerved by experienced people, that the ſoul contracts a ſort of blindneſs by loving: but the man I am ſpeaking of muſt derive his ſentiments from reaſon; and the paſſion which in others is looked on as the mark of folly, be in him the true effect of judgment.

To theſe qualities I muſt add that charm which is to be conſidered before all the reſt, though hard to be met with

with in this libertine age, RELIGION. He muſt be devout without ſuperſtition, and pious without melancholy; far from that infirmity which makes men uncharitable bigots, infuſing into the heart a moroſe contempt of the world, and an antipathy to the pleaſures of it. He muſt not be ſuch a lover of ſociety as to mix with the aſſemblies of knaves and blockheads, nor yet of an opinion that he ought to retire from mankind to ſeek GOD in the horror of ſolitude: on the contrary, he muſt think that the ALMIGHTY is to be found amongſt men, where his goodneſs is moſt active, and his providence moſt employed. There it is that RELIGION muſt enlighten, and reaſon regulate his conduct, both in the cares of ſalvation, and the duties of life.

WITH ſuch a man, a woman muſt enjoy thoſe pleaſures in marriage which none but fools would ridicule. Her huſband would be always the ſame, and always pleaſing. Other wives are glad if they can now and then find with their huſbands one agreeable hour; but with this, a diſagreeable minute would be impoſſible. On whatever occaſions we ſhould ſee or ſpeak to each other, it muſt be with mutual pleaſure, and aſſured ſatisfaction.

Now, Mr. Fitz-Adam, let your dreſſing, ſcribbling, handſome young fellows, whether of the Temple, of the Univerſity, of the Army, or of the City, who would be glad of a woman of five and twenty, not diſagreeable in her perſon, and with ten thouſand pounds in her pocket, read this character; and if any one of them will aſſert and prove it to belong to himſelf, my heart, hand and fortune are entirely at his ſervice. But I believe, ſir, that inſtead of a man, I have been deſcribing a monſter of the imagination; a thing that neither

ther is, was, nor ever will be: I am therefore reſigned to my condition, and can think without repining of dying a maid (and I hope an old one) ſince I am not to expect a huſband to the wiſhes of,

SIR,

Your humble ſervant,

reader and correſpondent,

A. B.

THOUGH I doubt not but my fair correſpondent is thoroughly deſerving of the huſband ſhe knows ſo well how to deſcribe, yet I could have wiſhed, for her own ſake, as well as for the ſake of ſome happy man, that ſhe had added a qualifying poſtſcript to her letter, ſignifying that ſhe was willing to make ſome little abatement in her demands. When gentlemen build houſes, it is uſual with them either to give up conveniency for a proſpect, or a proſpect for conveniency. In this manner ſhould a lady act in the choice of a huſband: if ſhe ſets her heart upon a FACE, ſhe ſhould have no diſlike to a coxcomb; or if ſhe falls in love with a MIND, a ſloven ſhould appear charming: for the odds are againſt her, that the handſome man is the one, and the man of knowledge the other.

EXCLUSIVE of myſelf, I know of no ſuch character as the lady has deſcribed: nor dare I ſay a word of my own perſon and accompliſhments, being unfortunately near ſeventy, and a married man. It has alſo been hinted to me (for I ſcorn to deceive anybody) that I have a ſmall ſtoop in my gait, and that I am not quite ſo well-bred upon all occaſions as a young lady might expect me to be.

I AM alſo cautious of recommending any of thoſe gentlemen who are daily advertiſing for wives in the public